

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (canceled).

Claim 2. (currently amended): A packet switching device receiving a packet and, after storing the packet, forwarding the packet, said packet switching device comprising:

a group judging unit for judging whether or not the received packet belongs to a multiple addressing group including packets of which destination address is one of (1) a broadcast address, and (2) a multicast address;

a group analyzing unit that subdivides the received packet, when it is judged to belong to a multiple address group, into groups based on information added to the received packet, said information comprising at least one of a VLAN tag, Ether type, and MPLS label;

a counter, provided for ~~every group to which specified packets belong~~ each of the subdivided groups, for indicating a storage capacity of ~~the~~ specified packets belonging to ~~the same group~~ each of the subdivided groups in received packets, wherein a threshold value is provided for each of the subdivided groups; and

a starting unit that starts, if ~~the means starting, if said~~ counter exceeds the threshold value provided for the subdivided group associated with the counter, ~~a preset forwarding restriction start threshold value~~, a forwarding restriction of the specified packets belonging to ~~a~~ the subdivided group associated with ~~said the~~ counter.

Claim 3. (currently amended): The ~~A~~ packet switching device according to claim 42, wherein the forwarding restriction is a process of discarding the specified packets belonging to the subdivided group in the received packets without storing the specified packets.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The A-packet switching device according to claim 12, wherein the forwarding restriction is a process of lowering a priority of the specified packets belonging to the subdivided group in the received packets.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The A-packet switching device according to claim 12, further comprising  
a canceling unit for~~means~~ canceling the forwarding restriction when ~~said the~~ counter becomes smaller than a preset forwarding restriction terminating threshold value.

Claim 6. (canceled).

Claim 7. (currently amended): The A-packet switching device according to claim 2, further comprising  
an adding unit for~~means~~-adding, in the case of receiving the specified packet belonging to the subdivided group, a size of the received specified packet to ~~said the~~ counter associated with ~~a the~~ subdivided group to which this specified packet belongs; and  
a subtracting unit for subtracting, in the case of forwarding the specified packet belonging to the subdivided group, a size of the forwarded specified packet from said counter associated with the subdivided group to which the specified packet belongs.

Claim 8. (currently amended): The A-packet switching device according to claim 2, further comprising:  
a packet buffer storing the specified packets belonging to the subdivided groups and packets other than the specified packets; and  
a forwarding unit for ~~receiving and forwarding a packet, comprising: means receiving a packet and storing the packet in a memory; and means forwarding, if a specified packet and a packet other than the specified packet are stored~~ in the packet buffer, the packet other than the specified packet ahead of ~~to~~ the specified packet.

Claim 9. (currently amended): The A-packet switching device according to any one of claim 21, wherein the specified packet is a broadcast packet.

Claim 10. (canceled).

Claim 11. (currently amended): A packet forwarding control method by which a packet switching device receiving and forwarding a packet executes a forwarding restriction of specified packets, comprising:

judging whether or not the received packet belongs to a multiple addressing group including packets of which destination address is one of (1) a broadcast and (2) a multicast address;

subdividing the received packet belonging to the multiple addressing group into groups based on information added to the received packet, the information including at least one of a VLAN tag, Ether type and MPLS label;

comparing a preset forwarding restriction start threshold value with a counter provided for each of the subdivided groups with a threshold value provided for the subdivided group associated with the counter, the counter, provided for every group to which specified packets belong, indicating a storage capacity of the specified packets belonging to each of the subdivided groups the same group; and

starting, if the counter exceeds the preset forwarding restriction start threshold value, the forwarding restriction of the specified packets belonging to a the subdivided group associated with said the counter by said packet switching device.

Claims 12-20. (canceled).

Claim 21. (new): The packet forwarding control method according to claim 11, wherein the forwarding restriction comprises a process of discarding the specified packets belonging to the subdivided group in the received packets without storing the specified packets.

Claim 22. (new): The packet forwarding control method according to claim 11, wherein the forwarding restriction is a process of lowering a priority of the specified packets belonging to the subdivided group in the received packets.

Claim 23. (new): The packet forwarding control method according to claim 11, further comprising canceling the forwarding restriction when the counter becomes smaller than a preset forwarding restriction terminating threshold value.

Claim 24. (new): The packet forwarding control method according to claim 11, further comprising:

adding, in the case of receiving the specified packet belonging to the subdivided group, a size of the received specified packet to the counter associated with the subdivided group to which this specified packet belongs; and

subtracting, in the case of forwarding the specified packet belonging to the subdivided group, a size of the forwarded specified packet from the counter associated with the subdivided group to which the specified packet belongs.

Claim 25. (new): The packet forwarding control method according to claim 11, further comprising:

storing the specified packets belonging to the subdivided groups, and packets other than the specified packets, in a packet buffer; and

forwarding, if a specified packet and a packet other than the specified packet are stored in the packet buffer, the packet other than the specified packet ahead of the specified packet.